

# connecting tempe

JANUARY 28, 2015

THROUGH  
PEOPLE,  
PARKS &  
PROGRAMS

## GIVING BACK MAKING A DIFFERENCE ISSUE



The New Year is a great opportunity for you to give back to your community! Whether you want to donate a few hours a month or just one afternoon, there are plenty of ways that you can make a significant impact on the lives of others in the Tempe community. If you're new to volunteering, or simply looking for ways to serve others, you'll find lots of opportunities and ideas throughout this issue on how to give back.



The City of Tempe's Volunteer program aims to connect citizens with opportunities to serve within the Tempe municipal government organization and the community. Volunteers not only enable the city to maximize tax dollars, but also help to improve the lives of its citizens.

Individuals who are interested in volunteering will meet with the city's volunteer coordinator to determine where their interests lie and how their skills can be best utilized. A wide variety of service projects are available



for participants who are middle-school-aged and older, from a few hours to reoccurring assignments. Volunteers are frequently assigned in areas such as: the Tempe Public Library, Tempe's Adapted Recreation programs including Special Olympics, the Escalante Community Garden, recreation programs and many more!

Currently, the city is in need of volunteers for its monthly Free Art Friday events which feature a morning of art projects and movement activities for tots, youth and their families. Volunteer coaches are needed for the Youth Sports Small Ball and Rec Hoops basketball programs, as well as for Team Tempe's Special Olympics sports including tennis, volleyball, kayaking and track & field. Adapted Recreation is also looking for assistance with the Buddy Bowling program and its Friday Night Social activities. And there's more, so check into an opportunity that might be just right for you!

Whichever program you choose to donate your time to, your efforts are sure to make a difference in your life and in the lives of those you help serve. To view the current volunteer opportunities, visit [www.Tempe.gov/Volunteer](http://www.Tempe.gov/Volunteer).

# ENJOY A TASTY LUNCH WHILE SUPPORTING A GREAT CAUSE

Bring your appetite and a desire to help others to [Tempe Empty Bowls](#), held from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 20 and Saturday, Feb. 21. Friday's event will be held at 6th Street Park, just south of City Hall in Downtown Tempe, and Saturday's event will be held in the Tempe Library Complex, 3500 S. Rural Rd.

Attendees can purchase hand-crafted bowls, made by potters from the City of Tempe Ceramics Program, local artists

and Tempe-area high school and middle school students. With the \$10 purchase of a bowl, Whole Foods Market Tempe will offer a simple meal of soup and bread. This meal is symbolic of the caloric intake that must sustain many in the world for an entire day.

Proceeds from Tempe Empty Bowls benefit the [Tempe Community Action Agency](#), the [Escalante Community Garden](#) and the [United Food Bank](#).



## HELP PLAN TEMPE'S ARTS AND CULTURE FUTURE

Tempe Mayor Mark Mitchell will host a Town Hall session on the future of art in Tempe on Tuesday, Feb. 3, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the [Tempe Center for the Arts](#), 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway. The City of Tempe is developing the Tempe Arts Plan, a 10-year master plan to strengthen arts and culture throughout the community. Join fellow residents and other community members

for a brief presentation about the planning process and engage in lively, small-group discussions on topics of your choosing. Come help shape the cultural future of your community. Refreshments will be provided.

For more information or to comment online from Feb. 2-24, visit [www.Tempe.gov/TempeArtsPlan](http://www.Tempe.gov/TempeArtsPlan).

## LEAVE A LEARNING LEGACY WITH EXPERIENCE CORPS

In partnership with [AARP](#), the City of Tempe offers a unique volunteer opportunity for adults 50+ to work with

elementary school children. [AARP Experience Corps](#) is a nationally

one-on-one with first through third grade students, helping them to improve their literacy skills.

This fall, Tempe's AARP Experience Corps program is looking to add approximately 30 volunteers. There are no special skills required to be a volunteer – just the willingness to share your experiences, time and patience. Comprehensive training, support services and orientation are provided. Learn more by attending an information session on Thurs., Feb. 26, Wed., March 18 or Thurs., May 7 at 10 a.m. at the

[Tempe Public Library](#), 3500 S. Rural Rd. For more information, visit [www.Tempe.gov/VolunteerEC](http://www.Tempe.gov/VolunteerEC) or call 480-858-2464.

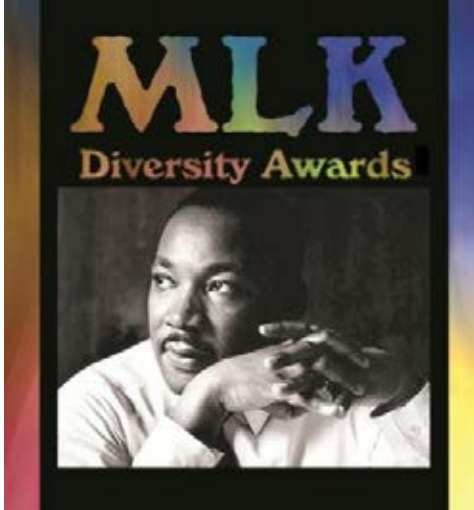


recognized literacy program currently running in 22 cities across the country. In Tempe, there are 84 volunteers who work in nine Tempe elementary schools. Volunteers work





# 17TH ANNUAL MLK DIVERSITY AWARDS DINNER HONORED THOSE WITH A COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY IN TEMPE



The 17th Annual City of Tempe Human Relations Commission [MLK Diversity Awards Dinner](#), presented by [APS](#), took place on Jan. 17, 2015 at The Tempe Mission Palms Hotel. The awards dinner honored community members and

groups who demonstrated a commitment to diversity in Tempe and featured keynote speaker [Jevin Hodge](#). Hodge is a Tempe native, founding member of the Arizona based non-profit, [The Manifesto Project](#), and current advisor to the President of The United States, in the [Office of Public Engagement](#) focusing on how to increase civic engagement among young Americans.



## 2015 MLK Diversity Award Winners:

### **Business**

The Dhaba/Indian Plaza

### **Community Group**

Juneteenth Subcommittee  
TCAA Food Pantry Volunteers

### **Educational**

Kathleen M. Espinoza

### **Individual Adult**

Randy Keating  
Dr. Jed Maddela  
Jeff Procter-Murphy

### **Individual Youth**

Safiya Aden  
Olivia Altamirano  
Elijah Quin Chevalier  
Selena Urbalejo

View more information about the [individuals and groups recognized](#) at this year's awards dinner.  
Visit the City of Tempe's [Diversity Office](#) page.

## WALKERS ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REGIONAL UNITY WALK AND DIVERSITY FESTIVAL

Get your walking shoes ready to join in the celebration of cultural diversity at the [Regional Unity Walk and Diversity Festival](#) on Saturday, Jan. 31 at Tempe Beach Park. The one mile walk begins at 10:30 a.m. and will be followed by the Diversity Festival. The Unity Walk and festival are free, and registration is not required.

"The Valley has such a diversity of people, thought and public policy that it is important for us to show unity and be united against discrimination and hatred," said City of Tempe [Diversity](#) Director Rosa Inchausti. "The Unity Walk allows us to come together as a community, across geographic boundaries and focus on the ideas we share: to make the community a better place."

Families, community organizations, scout groups, school clubs, and faith groups are encouraged to participate. Each walker will receive a free t-shirt. The diversity festival, which ends at noon, will feature a welcome by dignitaries, entertainment, jump houses for the kids, and free hot dogs.



# MAKE YOUR MARK... ADOPT A TEMPE PARK!



Tempe's [Adopt-A-Park](#), [Adopt-A-Street](#), [Adopt-A-Path](#) and [Adopt-An-Alley](#) programs can be the perfect reason to get together, enjoy the nice weather and participate in selfless service while enhancing the appearance, safety and cleanliness of Tempe.

The Adopt-A-Park program responsibilities include picking up trash and litter, raking leaves, pulling weeds and fluffing playground sand, sanitizing playground equipment, sweeping all hard surfaces (i.e. basketball courts, sidewalks, ramadas, etc.), reporting any necessary cleaning, unsafe conditions or repairs, as well as completing any special projects that may be assigned by Parks staff.

The Adopt-A-Street and Adopt-A-Path programs support litter control and storm water management throughout Tempe. The length of an adoptable street and/or path is a minimum of one mile, but no more than two miles. The commitment is a few hours each cleaning period with a minimum of one clean up every three months for two years. Signs providing information related to the litter control effort and crediting the volunteer or sponsor organization are provided by the city.

Tempe's Adopt-An-Alley program allows residents to help remove litter, weeds and graffiti, as well as identify bulk trash that does not fit into a 300-gallon trash

bin within our alley system. Individuals, businesses and organizations residing adjacent to the alley being adopted are eligible to volunteer. The length of an adoptable alley is one neighborhood block, but no more than three blocks. The commitment is a few hours each cleaning period with a minimum cleanup effort four times a year for a minimum of two years.

There are also year-round opportunities for groups. All of Tempe's 48 parks, major streets and various side streets, as well as most of Tempe's multi-use paths, are available for adoption. For more information, visit [www.Tempe.gov/Adopt](http://www.Tempe.gov/Adopt).



Adopt-An-  
**ALLEY**



Adopt-A-  
**STREET**



Adopt-A-  
**PARK**



Adopt-A-  
**PATH**



# COLLEGE CONNECT OFFERS FREE FINANCIAL AID AND FAFSA WORKSHOP

The College Connect Tempe program will host a free Financial Aid and FAFSA preparation workshop from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Jan. 31 at the [Tempe Public Library](#), 3500 S. Rural Rd.

Students and their parents are invited to attend the workshop to gain knowledge of the Financial Aid process and receive help completing the [FAFSA](#) application. Be sure to bring your social security number(s), 2013 or 2014 federal tax information, bank and

investment records and records of any untaxed income for all parties.

Students attending the workshop can enter in a drawing to win a \$250 scholarship.

College Connect was created through a partnership between the City of Tempe, [ASU](#), [Grand Canyon University](#), [Mesa Community College](#), [Tempe Elementary School District](#), [Tempe Union High School District](#),



[Rio Salado College](#) and the [University of Advancing Technology](#). The community-based program has been specifically designed to assist young people in fulfilling their dreams of a post-secondary education.

For more information and to reserve your spot, visit [www.CollegeConnectTempe.org](http://www.CollegeConnectTempe.org).

## FREEZIN' FOR A REASON AT THE 2015 POLAR BEAR PLUNGE



The 4th Annual Polar Bear Plunge at The Lakes was a freezing success as more than 150 Polar Bears took the plunge at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 10 on behalf of Team Asa. An additional 200 registered supporters of the cause, or Teddy Bears, cheered on the Polar Bears who earned their bragging rights by jumping into the chilly pool.

Team Asa is a 501c(3) organization that helps to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in recreational and social opportunities. Some of the wonderful programs that have benefited from the Polar Plunge fundraising efforts

include the adapted PE programs at Tempe High and Tempe Elementary School

District, The Arc of Tempe, Tempe Special Olympics, City of Tempe's Buddy Bowling Unified Program and more.

Thanks to the generous support of the community, the 2015 Polar Bear Plunge raised over \$8,500.

To see photos and coverage of the event, visit [www.LakesPolarBearPlunge.com](http://www.LakesPolarBearPlunge.com).



## ROOT, ROOT, ROOT FOR RACHEL'S CHALLENGE AT THE TEMPE DIABLOS CHARITY GAME

Spend an afternoon watching baseball and supporting great causes by attending the annual Tempe Diablos Charity Game at 1:10 p.m., Tuesday, March 10 at Diablo Stadium! All proceeds benefit local Tempe charities which aid at-risk youth, fund student scholarships, enrich the lives of individuals with physical and intellectual disabilities, and improve educational programs with an emphasis

on early childhood development and life-skills. For more information, visit [www.TempeDiablos.org](http://www.TempeDiablos.org).

Tickets are available online at [www.Angels.com](http://www.Angels.com), or at the Tempe Diablo Stadium ticket window beginning Feb. 21. Visit [www.Tempe.gov/Diablo](http://www.Tempe.gov/Diablo) for information on games, tickets, stadium hours, directions and parking.



# KAJIKAWA SOFTBALL CLASSIC RETURNS TO TEMPE FEB. 5-8

The Arizona State University Women's Softball Team will host the annual Kajikawa Classic from Thursday, Feb. 5 through Sunday, Feb. 8, 2015 at the [Tempe Sports Complex](#) and ASU's [Farrington Stadium](#).

Named after legendary ASU softball coach and Sun Devil athletics founder, Bill Kajikawa, the Kajikawa Classic is an ASU softball tradition. The 2015 Classic will host 31 teams (including ASU) and over 80 games will be played throughout the four-day event. Teams play in round-robin fashion and the winning team

is determined by percentage. This year's classic will feature representation from the Pac-12, Mountain West, Big Ten, Big East and more.

The ASU Women's Softball Team is [scheduled](#) to play Creighton, California State University - Northridge, Indiana University, Ole Miss, San Diego, Texas and Western Michigan University in this year's Classic.

For more details, include a complete schedule of games, visit the Sun Devil Athletics [Softball page](#).



## DIABLOS TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

Do you know an amazing teacher, administrator or a staff member at your child's school? If so, here's your chance to say "thank you" and recognize their hard work and dedication.

Nominations are now open for the *26th Annual Tempe Diablos Excellence in Education Awards* which recognize outstanding teachers, administrators and staff members from the, Kyrene School District, Tempe Elementary School District and the Tempe Union High School District.

Submissions will be judged by a panel of retired teachers and administrators for the



following categories: *Class Act, Rising Star, Inspiration, High Impact, Leadership, Lifetime Achievement and Diablos Teacher of the Year*. Winners and finalists will be honored during an award ceremony on Monday, May 4 at the [Tempe Center for the Arts](#). The winners from each district will receive a trophy and a cash award, and each runner-up will be presented with a cash award. In all, more than \$30,000 will be presented by the [Diablos](#) to award winners.

The nomination deadline is February 6, 2015. For details and to complete a nomination form, visit [www.TempeSchools.org/TempeDiablos](http://www.TempeSchools.org/TempeDiablos).



2014 honoree Adrianna Aragon [M] with Tempe Diablos members Scott Liem [L] and Gerald Deetz [R]



2014 honoree Sergio Holguin [M] with Tempe Diablos members Scott Liem [L] and Gerald Deetz [R]



# IT'S A NEW YEAR, NEW YOU @ KRC!

There's still time to get fit for free at the Kiwanis Recreation Center (KRC)! The New Year, New You Access Pass was unveiled at KRC earlier this month, which allows adults ages 18 and older the opportunity to try a variety of activities including water fitness classes, open gym, open/lap swim and the fitness center at no cost through Jan. 31. Get your Access Pass at KRC, located at 6111 S. All-America Way in Tempe. Visit [www.Tempe.gov/Kiwanis](http://www.Tempe.gov/Kiwanis) for more information and the complete schedule of classes.

Want to stay motivated after January? You can purchase a three-month unlimited fitness pass and you'll get an extra three months for free! The three-month pass sells for \$64 and is also available at Kiwanis through Jan. 31.

Since we missed you, our guests, during KRC's facility closure this winter, we want to officially welcome you back in style with a free Open House on Saturday, Jan. 31. Join us for a day full of mini workshops, waves, raffle items and more! Call TaiAnna Yee at 480-350-5740 or email [TaiAnna.Yee@tempe.gov](mailto:TaiAnna.Yee@tempe.gov) for details.



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## TEMPE COMMUNITY WRITING CONTEST

The Tempe Public Library is inviting anyone with a passion for writing to participate in the [Tempe Community Writing Contest](#). Open through Feb. 15, the contest is accepting submissions in poetry, fiction and non-fiction. High school students, college students, adults, Tempe residents, Tempe Library Cardholders and ASU students are eligible to enter.

The contest is co-sponsored by [Tempe Public Library](#) and [Arizona State University](#), and judging will be performed by members of ASU's creative writing

community. Winners will be announced in Spring 2015 and will receive a certificate, as well as an invitation to a reception at the Tempe Public Library. Winning entries will be published online on the Tempe Public Library website.

Visit [www.CollegeofLettersandSciences.Submittable.com/Submit](http://www.CollegeofLettersandSciences.Submittable.com/Submit) to submit your entry.





To receive up-to-date information about exciting events and opportunities happening between Connecting Tempe newsletters, become a fan of Tempe Opportunities on [Facebook](#).

## SAVE THE DATE

<b>Saturday, Jan. 31</b>	<a href="#">College Connect Workshop</a> 10 a.m.-noon <a href="#">Tempe Public Library</a>	<b>Friday, Feb. 13</b>	<a href="#">Escalante's Annual Sweetheart's Dance</a> 6-8 p.m. <a href="#">Escalante Multi-Generational Center</a>
<b>Saturday, Jan. 31</b>	<a href="#">Regional Unity Walk</a> 10:30 a.m.; Starting locations vary	<b>Friday, Feb. 13</b>	<a href="#">Valentine's Day Kayak</a> 6:30-8:30 p.m. <a href="#">SRP Town Lake Marina</a>
<b>Saturday, Jan. 31</b>	Open House @ KRC 11 a.m.-6 p.m. <a href="#">Kiwanis Recreation Center</a>	<b>Tuesday, Feb. 17</b>	<a href="#">Class registration opens - Tempe Residents</a>
<b>Monday, Feb. 2</b>	<a href="#">Kids Swim Free begins</a> 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; 4:30-8 p.m. <a href="#">Kiwanis Recreation Center</a>	<b>Friday, Feb. 20</b>	<a href="#">Free Art Friday</a> 9:30-11:30 a.m. <a href="#">Edna Vihel Activities Center</a>
<b>Tuesday, Feb. 3</b>	<a href="#">Tempe Arts Plan – Town Hall session</a> 5:30-7:30 p.m., <a href="#">Tempe Center for the Arts</a>	<b>Friday, Feb. 20</b>	<a href="#">Tempe Empty Bowls</a> 11 a.m.-2 p.m. <a href="#">6th Street Park</a>
<b>Thursday, Feb. 5 – Sunday, Feb. 8</b>	<a href="#">Kajikawa Softball Classic</a> Times vary; Locations vary	<b>Saturday, Feb. 21</b>	<a href="#">Tempe Empty Bowls</a> 11 a.m.-2 p.m. <a href="#">Tempe Library Complex</a>
<b>Saturday, Feb. 7</b>	<a href="#">All Ears with Corey Woods</a> 10-11:30 a.m. <a href="#">Tempe Public Library</a>	<b>Monday, Feb. 23</b>	<a href="#">Class registration opens - General</a>
<b>Week of Feb. 9</b>	<a href="#">Spring Opportunities brochure becomes available</a>	<b>Saturday, Feb. 28</b>	<a href="#">Play Day 2015</a> 10 a.m.-2 p.m. <a href="#">Kiwanis Park</a>
<b>Thursday, Feb. 12</b>	<a href="#">Youth Town Hall</a> 8:15 a.m.-2:15 p.m. <a href="#">Westside Multi-Generational Center</a>		



City of Tempe

PLAY LEARN LIVE GROW

[www.tempe.gov/recreation](http://www.tempe.gov/recreation)